

Whereas, it is with tremendous pleasure that the members of the Missouri House of Representatives pause in their diverse daily activities in order to acknowledge a milestone event in the history of the Show-Me State; and

Whereas, on September 26, 2003, the Czech Republic will officially open a Consular Office in Kansas City to serve as a catalyst for economic, political, educational, and cultural opportunities between the people of the midwestern United States and Czech citizens; and

Whereas, a free and autonomous nation since 1993, the Czech Republic has made great progress in building an infrastructure which encourages political freedom and free market exchange as evidenced by its admittance into NATO in 1999 and its long-anticipated entrance into the European Union in 2004; and

Whereas, the Czech Republic and its political antecedents are the homeland of many of this nation's most esteemed immigrants who settled in Missouri, Kansas, and Nebraska to add to the region's rich and varied heritage; and

Whereas, Sharon K. Valasek was appointed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic to serve as Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic for the states of Missouri, Kansas, and Nebraska and received approval of the United States Department of State to found in Kansas City a Consulate of the Czech Republic; and

Whereas, in keeping with the rarity of such an event as the formal establishment of political and economic ties between two peoples and lands, the Honorable Martin Palous, Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the United States, will be present to lend his considerable prestige and visionary leadership to the proceedings which herald the opening of the Czech Republic Consulate in Kansas City:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, join unanimously to applaud the opening of a Czech Consular Office in Kansas City, to convey this legislative body's heartiest congratulations to Sharon K. Valasek upon her selection as Honorary Consul, and to express our warmest welcome to Czech Republic Ambassador Martin Palous as he visits the state of Missouri at this glorious moment in our history; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for presentation at the opening of the Czech Consulate in Kansas City, Missouri.

Offered by _____
Representative Ray Salva
District No. 51

I, Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, First Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 4059, adopted September 16, 2003.

Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker